Voluntary Cooperation

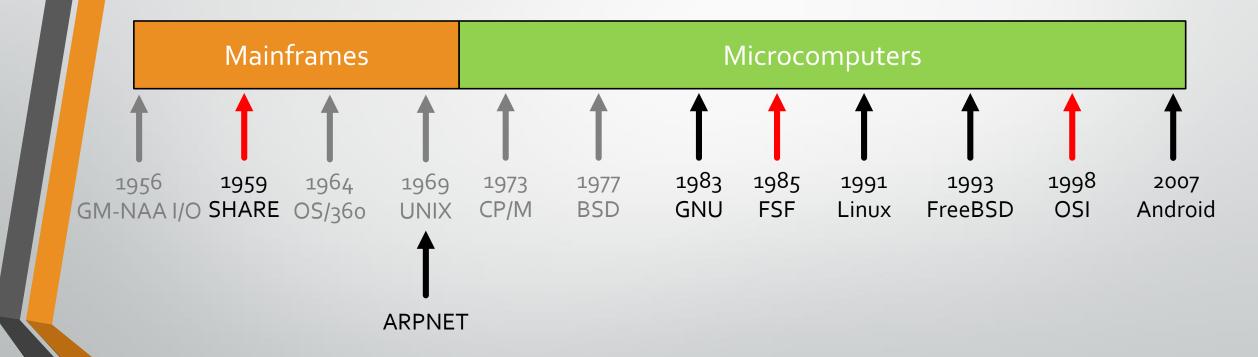
in the Software Industry

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BHM345

- **1.** The history
- 2. What is it?
- 3. How does it work?
- 4. What can be learned?

A brief history



What is it?

- The Free Software Foundation (FSF) is a nonprofit with a worldwide mission to promote computer user freedom and to defend the rights of all free software users.
- The Open Source Initiative (OSI) is a non-profit corporation formed to educate about, and advocate, for the benefits of open source.
- Android is an open-source software stack for mobile devices, and a corresponding open-source project led by Google.



How does it work?

Traditional Business Model	FOSS Model
Localised resources	Distributed network
Protected IP	Permissive licenses
Coupling between business and practise	No financial incentives
High barrier to entry	Performance based

Case Study: Linux

What it doesn't have	What it does have
No managers	Technical leads
No inside information	Mailing lists and open discussion
No deadlines	Achievement based releases
No cooperate strategy	Emergence

What can be learned from it?

The culture

- Low resource wastage
- Low bug density
- Trusted
- Low stakes environment
- Ecosystem of innovation

Other applications

- Hardware
- Standardisation
- Academic research
- Medical Science
- Astronomy